

large number of Chinese Pheasants that I have seen from various parts of China, I have never met a collarless specimen, nor have I ever heard of such a thing. I have, moreover, been assured by friends at home that if in a descendant of a cross between *P. colchicus* and *P. torquatus* any mark of the latter remains, it is sure to be accompanied by a white collar. But, independent of the lack of the neck-ring, I have shown that there are other characters to distinguish the species. It is impossible to presume that our bird could be a cross between the two mentioned species; for between the habitats of our new species and the *P. colchicus* the broadly collared *P. mongolicus* has place. Dr. Anderson of Calcutta procured from Yunnan, the neighbouring province to Szechuen, a collarless species that answers to a cross produced between *P. colchicus* and *P. versicolor* of Japan! It would surely be absurd for one moment to suppose that these two from such distant localities could have met in that wild Mohammedan stronghold. I have a Pheasant from Hankow, 750 miles lower down the river than Chungking. This agrees with the ordinary *P. torquatus* in every respect, except that its broad white collar is broken in the front of the neck, the two ends of the ring being three-quarters of an inch apart. In the markings of the tail the pale-flanked Formosan variety of *P. torquatus* comes nearest to our bird, the bars on the tail of that race being broader and further apart than is ordinary in Chinese specimens.

3. On the Plovers of the Genus *Ægialites* found in China.

By R. SWINHOE, F.Z.S.

(Plate XII.)

Section I. *Ringed Plovers.*

On ascending the River Yangtze into the Province of Szechuen I noticed on the rocky and sandy flats, exposed by the falling water, a species of Sand-plover that I had not met before. I took it at first for *Æg. geoffroyi*; but the note it uttered as it rose and flew away was peculiar. It occurred singly or in pairs in May, and was, I believe, breeding, though I did not succeed in finding its eggs. It was shy of approach and somewhat scarce. I was fortunate enough to procure two males and one female. It belongs to the group with double pectoral band, which is represented in America and Africa by *Æg. vociferus* (Linn.) and *Æg. tricollaris* (Vieill.) respectively. I propose to name it in honour of Mr. J. E. Harting, who has made the *Limicolæ* his especial study, and whose kind assistance I have to acknowledge.

1. *ÆGIALITES HARTINGI*, sp. nov. (Plate XII.)

Forehead, ring round the neck, and under parts pure white. Upper parts light greyish brown. A broad black patch occurs above the forehead from eye to eye, edged in rear with a narrow indistinct white line. Streak from bill to eye, and continued under the eye



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over the ear-coverts, brown more or less mixed with black. A pure white half-eyebrow above the ear-coverts. On hind neck, below the white ring, a broad black ring extending across the breast; below this a narrow white pectoral bar, succeeded by a broad one of brown more or less mixed with black. Lower edge of wing white; greater wing-coverts broadly margined at their tips with the same. Winglet deep hair-brown. Quills lighter hair-brown, edged and tipped paler; inner secondaries broadly edged with white. Tail light brown; the two central feathers entirely so, but of a much darker hue near their tips; the rest with a broad white tip, succeeded by a blackish-brown broad bar, the black mounting higher on the outer side of the shaft, and the white increasing towards the outermost feather, of which the edge of the outer web, its entire basal portion, and its shaft are white.

Bill blackish brown, the basal third of its lower mandible orange-yellow. Eyelid orange-yellow; eye full and dark. Legs pale ochreous, deeper on toes, with black claws.

Length about 8 inches; wing 5·75; tail 3·2; bill in front ·8; naked tibia ·65; tarse 1·2; middle toe (claw ·17) 1·2, outer toe (claw ·15) ·88, inner toe (claw ·14) ·7. A slight web occurs between the outer and middle toes, running in a deep curve from the first joint of the one to that of the other. The feet extend when stretched backwards to a little beyond the tail; the wings fall a quarter of an inch short of it.

This species is much smaller than *Ægialites vociferus*, and about a third bigger than *Æg. tricoloris*, but has a longer bill than either. In the black and white markings of the head and neck and tail, and in the shape of the last, these three species have much in common, but they differ so much in other respects that there is no chance of confounding them one with another.

Mr. Harting drew my attention to a species of Plover from India with the double pectoral band, which he thought at first might be the same as my Chinese species. He took the pains to search up all the references alluding to it, and has kindly permitted me to peruse them. The species is described by Latham (Ind. Ornith. ii. p. 750) as *Charadrius indicus*; and there is a specimen of it in the Leyden Museum from Nepaul. It turns out to be smaller and quite distinct from ours. A description of the Nepaulese specimen is given in the 'Mus. des Pays-Bas,' *Cursoris*, p. 25.

2. *ÆGIALITES HIATICULA* (Linn.).

Père David had a specimen of the European Ringed Plover in full summer plumage in his museum at Peking. It had been procured in the neighbourhood of the Chinese capital. I have never met with it on the South-China coast.

3. *ÆGIALITES CURONICUS* (Gm.)*.

Ægialites minor (Meyer).

* This would appear to be the larger form of Little Sand-plover, or *Ægialites intermedius* (Ménétriés) = *Charadrius hiaticula* of Pallas. The smaller form, *Æg. minor* (Meyer) = *Ch. curonicus*, Beseke = *Ch. minutus*, Pallas, has not yet occurred in China, but is known from India, and has been met with in England.

This little Plover is a common winter visitant to all parts of the China coast. I procured it as far south as Hainan. In 1860 I found it breeding at Talién Bay; and lately I saw it in May up the Yangtze, in Szechuen. I have looked through my series, and find them all of one species, identical with birds shot in England. A specimen from India is also the same. Jerdon gives a smaller race, *Æg. minutus* (Pall.), as occurring also in India. This I have never seen in China.

4. *ÆGIALITES CANTIANUS* (Lath.).

The true Kentish Plover comes down the Chinese coast in winter in great numbers; and I have a good series of them. They vary somewhat in the length of their bills; so I find does the home bird. I have one shot at Amoy in April, which is in full summer plumage and not to be distinguished from an English bird shot in May, kindly lent me by Mr. Harting for comparison. I have also skins from India sent me by Mr. Blyth. Amoy ♂: Bill in front .65 inch; wing 4.4; tarse 1.05. Bill black. Legs deep leaden-grey.

5. *ÆGIALITES DEALBATUS*, sp. nov.

Under this name I propose to distinguish the form of Kentish Plover that is resident on the south coast of China, including Formosa and Hainan (see P. Z. S. 1863, p. 52).

Bill black, with an ochreous-yellow spot at base of lower mandible. Legs light yellowish brown or flesh-colour. In other respects like a washed-out *Æg. cantianus*.

♂. Bill .75 inch; wing 4.45; tarse 1.07.

The male in summer plumage always has the latero-pectoral patch more or less black, as also the band over the white forehead. The loreal streak sometimes shows in pale rufescent brown, sometimes in black spots, and is rarely entirely wanting. The crown has generally some rufescence; and a rufescent tinge often washes over the back.

The female in July has a slight rufescence on the head, and a rufescent brown breast-patch. She seldom acquires any of the dark markings of the male.

I procured five specimens of this resident race in Hainan in March, and they were all marked as in summer. In Amoy they generally lose the dark markings in winter.

I have hitherto merely marked this bird as a variety of the Kentish Plover; but as Cassin has separated a similar local form found in California and on the South-American coast, I think it as well to distinguish our bird. The bill and the legs afford the only reliable characters for discrimination. No one can doubt the fact of our local form being derived from *Æg. cantianus*, and that the influence of climate and other local causes have effected a change in the constitution of the bird. It affects to acquire the breeding-plumage of its progenitor, but its system is apparently too weak; yet it breeds and multiplies, and seems otherwise a healthy race. In some specimens of true *Æg. cantianus* I notice a paleness at the base of the

lower mandible, and also in some a paleness of the tarse, both of which by a little intensifying would produce the results characterizing our species. Judging from these, I should consider that it is not long since our southern residents separated from their northern brethren, and remained behind to colonize the coast of the south. If the separation be so recent, it is rather curious that the southern residents receive each winter the visits of their northern brethren without inducing any of the latter to abide with them, or without being induced themselves to return to the home of their forefathers. Want of strength to return to the north may have induced the first individuals to settle in the south; and their offspring may naturally have preferred to continue in their birthplace, in the warm climate they had been reared in.

For the sake of comparison with the above Chinese bird, I will add a notice on a specimen of *Æg. nivosa* (Cassin), ♂, from Peru in summer dress, from Mr. Harting's collection.

Bill in front .65 inch; wing 4; tarse 1. Bill and legs shorter and more slender than in *Æg. cantianus*. Wants the loreal black streak. Wings shorter. Has a washed-out appearance on the upper parts. Crown only tinged with chestnut. Legs paler. From *Æg. dealbatus* it differs in its much smaller bill, and shorter tarse and toes—but, like it, seems to be only a climatal race of *Æg. cantianus*, derived probably in a similar way.

Ægialites niveifrons (Cuv., Less. Tr. d'Ornith. p. 543) of South Africa appears to be another analogous derivative of the same main species.

I was at first under the impression that *Ægialites perronii* (Müller) of Java was another race of *Æg. cantianus*. But in this I am mistaken. Dr. Schlegel, of Leyden, has kindly supplied me with a specimen in the summer and another in the winter plumage, and I will here briefly note their peculiarities.

Charadrius perronii, Müller, Verhandl. Rather smaller than *Æg. minor*, with a thicker bill, longer tarse, and shorter wing.

Summer plumage.—Has a narrow black band over the white forehead. The loreal streak is black, but does not meet over the bill, nor does it stretch under the eye; ear-coverts black. The frontal black is not edged posteriorly with white; but there is a white line above the ear-coverts. The crown is pale chestnut-brown, as in *Æg. cantianus*, with a broad white nuchal collar, succeeded by a broad black band, which retains its breadth to the sides of the breast, but becomes very narrow across the breast. The back and wings are light brown tinged with rufous. The greater wing-coverts and secondary quills are edged with white; and the shafts of the primaries, with the tips of the inner ones, are white. The tail-coverts and the six central tail-feathers are blackish brown. The two outer tail-feathers are pure white; the third pale brown edged with white. The bill is black, with a spot of pale ochreous at the base of the lower mandible. The legs look as if they had been pale yellowish brown.

Length of adult male about 6 inches; wing 3.85; tail 2; bill in front .56; tarse 1; middle toe (claw .17) .75.

Winter plumage.—Light brown above, with a rufous tinge on the sides of the head. A narrow band of white runs across the forehead and over to the top of the eye; it then turns rufous, and so passes over the ear-coverts. The loreal streak is light reddish brown. The nuchal white ring is indistinctly indicated, being marked with light rufous, which is also the colour of the breast-patch, and runs faintly across the breast. The rest of the under parts are white; and the wings and the tail have the same markings as in the adult.

Section II. *Red-breasted.*

6. *ÆGIALITES MONGOLUS* (Pall.).

Charadrius mongolus, Pall. Reise, iii. p. 700.

Charadrius mongolicus, Pall. Zoograph. ii. p. 136.

On the South-China coast this bird is a rare winter visitant; but in Hainan I found small parties of them on two occasions in March 1868, and procured two examples in winter dress. In May of the same year numbers of them were exposed in the market at Shanghai in summer plumage; I preserved one. The Hainan and the Shanghai birds agree, and are doubtless of the same species, and identical with the bird which Middendorff met with in large flocks on the 30th of June in the neighbourhood of the débouchement of the River Uda into the Sea of Ochotsk (see Midd. Reise, 1843–44, p. 211). Our bird answers well to his description and plate. He recognizes this species as distinct from *Ch. pyrrhothorax*, Temm., of Russia, and from *Ch. asiaticus (caspius)*, Pall., and adds (p. 212) that the longer tarse of the latter (39 millims.) makes it easily distinguishable in any dress from the *Æg. mongolicus*.

I will here give a description of my Hainan and Shanghai birds.

Æg. mongolus (Pall.). *Winter plumage.* Hainan. Upper parts light greyish brown. Loreal streak, ear-coverts, and latero-pectoral patch more or less marked with brown. A faint brown bar runs across the breast. Forehead, eyebrow, chin, throat, and under parts white. Wing hair-brown; lower edge of joint, broad margins and tips to greater coverts, margins to secondaries broadening inwardly, basal halves of outer webs of sixth and remaining primaries, first quill-shaft entirely, the others more or less, white. Upper tail-coverts: central feathers light brown margined with white, the side ones pure white. Tail: first or outer rectrix white, with an oblong longitudinal spot of pale brown on the inner web; second light brown, with white shaft and tip; the rest darker brown, with brown shafts and white tips, the white decreasing on the two centrals. Bill black. Legs deep blackish grey, claws black.

Length of wing 5·4 inches; tail 2·5; bill in front ·75; tarse 1·18; middle toe (claw ·17) ·85.

In summer (Shanghai specimen) the upper parts deepen in colour. A light rusty chestnut-colour marks the upper forehead, runs round the crown, and forms a broad nuchal collar extending across the breast and colouring the greater part thereof. The white of the